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<b>UNION TERRITORIES :</b>				
Pondicherry . . . . .	Drought	..	43.74	31.40
Goa . . . . .	Floods	..	..	11.20

**Statement - II**

*Amount sought and ceiling of expenditure sanctioned for Floods and Drought during 1980-81 to 1982-83 for Bihar State*

Rs. in lakhs.

Natural Calamity	Amount sought by Govt. of Bihar			Ceiling of Expenditure sanctioned		
	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83
Flood . . . . .	8974.75	6984.00	6334.00	2647.00	2074.00	1748.19
Drought . . . . .	7781.00	.. (i) 23400.00	(ii) 7456.85 (Supplementary Memorandum).	2482.00	.. (i) 2500.63	(ii) A Central Team visited Bihar from 21st to 25th March, 1983. Report awaited.

**Financial Assistance to drought hit Maharashtra**

@2785. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA:  
SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV:  
SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that large parts of the State of Maharashtra are in the grip of drought;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Government of Maharashtra has

sought Central assistance to the tune of Rs. 22.22 crores and the Central Government have so far sanctioned only Rs. 12.14 crores; if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken to sanction the remaining amount of assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) According to the Memorandum received from the Government of Maharashtra Nineteen districts covering 5772 villages and a human population of 71.96 lakhs have been affected by drought.

@ Previously Unstarred Question 1690 transferred from the 15th March, 1983.

(b) and (c)

(Rs) in crore

Memorandum received on	Amount sought in Memorandum	Ceiling of expenditure sanctioned
(i) 18 September, 1982	131.14	56.38
(ii) Supplementary Memorandum received on 6-1-1983	27.41	Recommendations of High Level Committee are under processing.

### Study conducted by Delhi Centre for Science and Environment's Study

@2786. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Delhi Centre for Science and Environment's Study has reported recently that more than 50 per cent of the Indian agricultural land is threatened by severe erosion and salinity, water-logging and desertification and also that as a result thereof the areas prone to floods have increased much in the past decade; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what remedial measures are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA):

(a) and (b) It is estimated that about 175 million ha., comprising 53.3 per cent of the country's geographical area of 328 million ha., is subject to soil erosion and land degradation. This includes about 105 million ha. of cultivable land, 20 million ha. of forest land and 8 million ha. of non-forest land, besides about 43 million ha. of various types of land subject to degradation through special problems such as water logging, alkalinity and salinity, ravines and gullies, shifting cultivation, desertification, etc.

The Government has been conscious of these problems and the need for

action to tackle them. Hence, multi-directional soil and water conservation programmes have been initiated from the First Five-Year Plan and implemented through the Central and State Sectors. The measures include control of erosion, harvesting and re-use of rain-water, afforestation, plantation and grassland development. Central assistance is being provided to the States for land-use surveys, priority delineation of watersheds as well as execution of programmes in the catchments of river valley projects and flood prone rivers under which about 574 priority watersheds spread over 37 catchments are being treated. Programmes for the conservation of the Himalaya ecosystem, reclamation of ravines as well as areas affected due to alkalinity and for control of shifting cultivation have also been undertaken. A National Land Board and a National Land Resources Conservation and Development Commission have been set up to take care of the problems and policy issues relating to health and care of the soil and its scientific management. Till 1981-82 an area of 32.1 million ha. had been treated at a cost of Rs. 1372.93 crores in the Central and State Sectors.

### Environment development of big cities

@@2787. SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state: (a) whether Government propose

@Previously Unstarred Question 1875 transferred from the 17th March, 1983.

@@Previously Unstarred Question 1979 transferred from the 17th March, 1983.